

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) A rod connector, comprising:

a connector main body swingably attached to a shank, said connector main body comprising a recess configured to engage part of a spherical end portion of the shank, part of said spherical end portion extending outside of said recess in a direction towards the shank;

a rod supporting portion provided in the connector main body and configured for supporting a rod; and

a pressure fixing device for pressure fixing the rod to the rod supporting portion of the connector main body, wherein the rod supporting portion comprises convex portions at both ends of the rod supporting portion, each convex portion comprising a sharp distal end configured to be embedded into the rod.

4-11. (Canceled)

12. (New) The rod connector according to claim 3, said rod supporting portion between said convex portions further comprising a rough surface.

13. (New) The rod connector according to claim 3, each convex portion further comprising a convex surface, and

each sharp distal end including a surface substantially normal to said rod supporting surface.

14. (New) The rod connector according to claim 3, said rod supporting portion having a longitudinal direction for supporting the rod along the longitudinal direction of the rod, and each convex portion further comprising a convex surface projecting in the longitudinal direction of said rod supporting portion, said convex portions projecting away from each other.